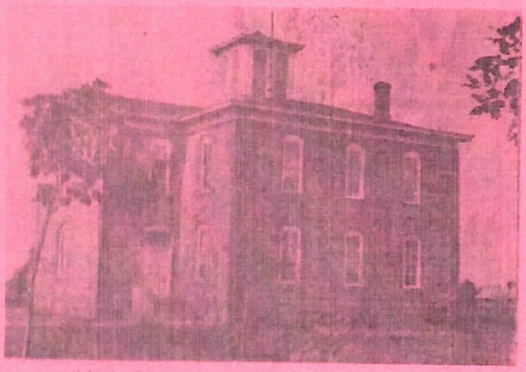
IN THE BEGINNING



High School Building, Yates Center

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

Vol. 5 - No. 19

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 5 - No. 19 July - 1972

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES –

We have been notified by the Allen County News-Journal Printing and Publishing Company of Iola that the price of publishing this quarterly will be raised by 10%, beginning with this issue. This company has published IN THE BEGINNING since its beginning in January, 1968, and this is the first raise. As much as we do not want to we will be forced to raise the price of this quarterly.

* * * *

We have 500 copies of this quarterly printed at each issue. Fortunately for us the publishers usually run off extra copies.

We have had the second volume of these magazines bound into a hardback book. The first one contained Volumes 1 & 2 - 1968-69. The second one is made up of Volumes 3 & 4 - 1970-71. The price is the same - $4.75 each if you turn in your back copies and $8.00 each just for the book alone. We just had 25 copies of each book bound. The first issue is about all gone.

* * * *

The cover picture is of what was referred to as the first high school building in Yates Center. It was built around 1884, on the site where State and Bell Streets are. This building was torn down in 1900 to make way for the Washington School, that was torn down in 1970.

This first two-story building was made of sawed stone. A stone sawmill was located where the Englebrecht Transfer is now located. The saw was run by steam power. The operator of the mill was Cy Miller. "Uncle" Joe Walker, a large man did all of the trim work on the stone. Some of the stone buildings around the square were made from this smooth sawed stone.

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$2.00 per year Yates Center, Kansas 60 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

The March meeting of the Historical Society was held at the school building at Piqua. There were around 80 present for the dinner meeting, held on March 28, 1972.

Miss Kathy Krueger, 1972 Woodson County Hay Queen, was a guest and told of some of her activities as Queen and some of the coming events. Her chaperone was Mrs. H.T. Laidlaw, of Jaycee Jaynes.

Father David O'Leary, pastor of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Yates Center and his friend Father White of Wichita, showed colored slides with a tape recording of a trip into Old Mexico that they had taken together.

* * * *

The May 1972, meeting was held in the United Methodist Church at Toronto. At this meeting a short Memorial Service was held honoring nine members who had passed away since the May 1971 meeting. The nine members were: Joe E. Ross, Henry A. Wrampe, John W. Lewis, Dollie Daniel, Sofia Tannahill, Jonas C. Street, Sarah (Lizzie) Arnold, Margaret Degler, J.R. Robbins.

Mrs. Clarissa Cantrell entertained the group with a program of one of her travels to the Orient.

* * * *

The Woodson County Historical Society has reached its peak in 1972 with 225 paid up members.

In Memorian

Mrs. Sarah M. (Lizzie) Arnold 85 February 28, 1972

Mrs. Arnold was a native of Woodson County, and had been a member of the Woodson County Historical Society since 1969.

* * * *

Mrs. Margaret Degler 96 April 10, 1972

Mrs. Degler was born in Coffey County, but was well known through her work in the Degler Studio. She held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

* * * *

J.R. "Dick" Robbins 82 May 16, 1972

Mr. Robbins was born and lived his entire life in the Rose community of Woodson County. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

FIRST ATHLETIC CLUB IN YATES CENTER SCHOOLS –

What is believed to be the first athletic club or organization in the Yates Center Schools had its beginning in 1894, with the above boys doing the organizing. Prof. Epperson, Vice Principal of the Yates Center schools was the leader and coach of the group.

The school board at that time seemed to be in financial difficulties as they could not furnish these boys any uniforms, medals or ribbons for the athletic activities.

The boys in the picture along with other pupils in the school set about to raise their own money by doing odd jobs in evenings and week-ends. By this means they raised money enough to buy some medals, gold and silver ribbons for trophies.

Athletic activities which they participated in were 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, pole vault, standing and running broad jump, weight lifting, Indian club twirling, mile race. A half mile egg shaped track was on the west side of the present US-75, where the large hay barn is located north of the railroad tracks.

The medals and various ribbons are displayed on the winners in the picture. The Y.C.P.S.A.A. stands for Yates Center Public School Athletic

Association. The boys in the picture are, left to right in back row: Claude Knight, Henry Stitcher, Joe Marple, John Shurtleff, Porter Jackson, Ora Shurtleff. Front row: Guy Marple, James Brown, Walter Shenk and Oscar Van Cleave.

THE STANSBURY FAMILY – North Owl Creek Cont.

This is another family that lived along North Owl Creek, that the family name has completely disappeared from the county records many years ago, but they were a family that had quite a lot to do with the early settling of the county.

John Stansbury and wife Mary, lived in Indiana and Iowa before coming in Kansas and Woodson County about 1858 or '59. We believe that they first came to North Owl Creek, but in October, 1861 their address was given as Verdigris. John and Mary Stansbury had six children when coming here. They were William, Joseph, John, Benjamin, Margaret and Mary, with their ages running from 20 to 6 years.

It was in 1865 that John Stansbury and family moved for certain on the farm along the branch, four miles north and three quarter mile west of Yates Center on the north side of the road on the east side of that branch.

John Stansbury was a circuit rider of the Methodist Church with headquarters at the town of Belmont. However on October 15, 1861, John Stansbury and sons, William, Joseph and John W., enlisted in Company G, Ninth Volunteer Cavalry, either at Iola or Humboldt, giving as their address, Verdigris, Woodson. Another man, S.M. Stansbury, same address enlisted on this same day and was evidently another son although his name was not in the 1860 census for this county. Part or perhaps all of this family came to North Owl Creek following the end of the Civil War. William Stansbury was postmaster at Coloma for awhile.

Andreas History of Kansas gives this account of the later years of John Stansbury – "In 1865 Belmont Circuit was again divided consisting of Greenwood County and to the counties to the southwest of it. In that year, 1865 and until 1868, Rev. Stansbury was preacher in charge. This man deserves more than passing notice. A true enthusiast in the cause of Methodism, he was a product of frontier life – a man of his time. Owning a farm on Owl Creek in Woodson County, he pinched from it a scanty subsistance. Mounted on his pony he went from station to station, sleeping indifferently in the scattered houses along the way or upon the naked prairie, and preaching where ever he found opportunity. He moved in 1870 to Cowley County, where a year later he was crushed to death by a falling log."

On January 17, 1866, Thomas Beatie and wife Maria sold their claim of 80 acres along the south side of Owl Creek to Anthony Wills, for $400. This 80 acres is a mile and quarter north of Yates Center on the east side of the present US-75.

Henry A. Cook came to Woodson County in 1861. He was about 17 years old. According to the Adjutant General's Report of the State of Kansas, 1864, Henry A. Cook was born in Ohio and his age as 19 at the time of his enlistment in Co. M 9th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on July 29, 1863, and his address was given as Woodson County. This company was organized that summer at Iola and its captain was W.W. B. McConnell of Neosho Falls.

Following the end of the war, Henry Cook came back to Owl Creek. This was in 1865, and the same year that the John C. Allen family arrived here. Henry A. Cook and Elizabeth Ann Allen were married August 30, 1866, by Rev. C.K. Tobias. Witnesses were Thomas Arnold and Margaret Blanchard.

Their first homestead was in the northeast quarter of section 35, joining on the east of his father Hiram Cook, with North Owl Creek running through both quarter sections. In 1868, he sold this farm to Orpheus Woodard, and purchased another homestead about two miles to the west and north. In the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 28-24-15. Here Henry and Elizabeth Cook established their home. Three children were born to them; C. Clarence, Ida B., and Robert. They also raised a foster daughter, Josie Kellum.

Here in April, 1873, Henry Cook suddenly died and was buried in the little cemetery where his mother was buried.

To Mrs. Cook the name of Elizabeth Ann was soon not used as she became known as "Aunt Toddy." Besides the task of raising her three small children she soon became a well known mid-wife, and her services were in demand throughout this Owl Creek area to help in delivering babies, and perhaps for other illness and pains. We believe that Josie Kellum joined the Cook household afterwards.

* * * *

In 1875, Capt. John C. Allen was buried in the little cemetery with his son-in-law, Henry Cook and others.

As one drives over US-75, going north out of Yates Center and goes down the long hill almost three miles north, about mid-way down the hill, looking over some cattle pens to the east is the small cemetery mentioned above. Perhaps it is more noticeable around Memorial Day as two flags can be seen waving in the breeze at the graves of Henry A. Cook and Capt. John Allen. While this little burying place is almost surrounded by cattle pens a good stout woven wire fence protects the graves. There is also graves of two small children – Charlie C., son of W.G. and L.A. Allen and a Jerimiah P. Allen.

After the deaths of Henry Cook and Capt. John Allen, Robert L. Allen, who never married, and was known to many in this locality as "Uncle Bobby" took over in the helping to take care of his sister, Mrs. Cook and the three small children and his mother Mrs. Margaret Murphy Allen, who was known to most at that time as Granny. They all made their home at the Allen Homestead along Owl Creek, a mile half north and west of Yates Center.

Indians camped along the creek and in the timber on this farm, and were very friendly to the people living there. On one occasion the Cook children, Clarence, Ida and Robert were at school at District 13 that stood on the hill 2½ miles north of Yates Center. Mrs. Cook and Uncle Bobby had gone to Humboldt. A heavy rain came up and brought Owl Creek rolling high in its banks. When the three small children came to the creek they could not get across. One of the Indians knowing that the older people were gone met the children and took them across the swollen stream on his pony.

* * * *

The Blanchard Family had quite a lot to do with the history of this part of North and West Owl Creeks. Some of this family evidently came here during the 1850's and left to come back later as did some of the others that came from Kirksville, Missouri. Two miles north and a half east of Yates Center is a pioneer grave native stone marker with the inscription – Orlean Blanchard – 1859. We were told that there had been three graves here at one time, and that the people had been killed by Indians. But we have no other tale about this grave.

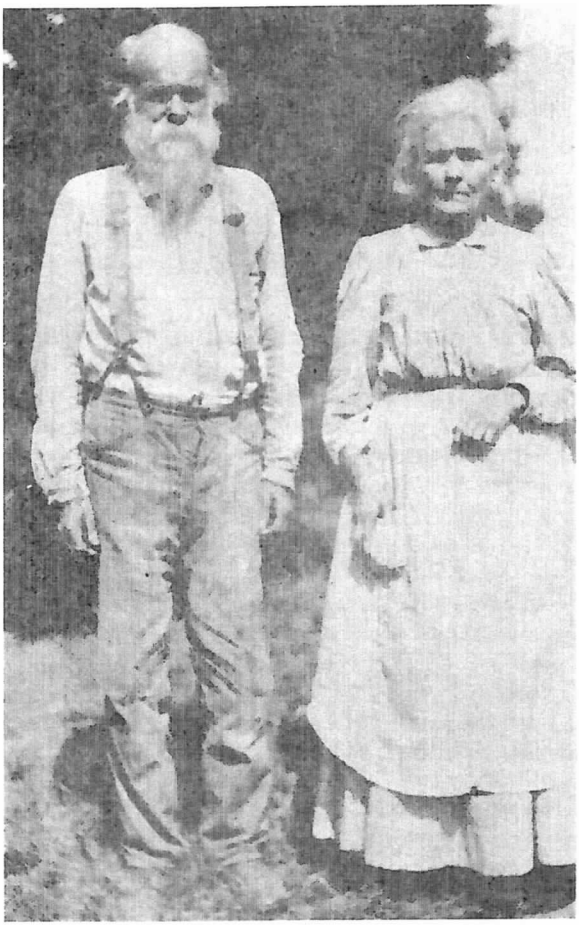
Margaret Blanchard and son George Blanchard purchased the farm of Henry Yost that he had purchased from Thomas Sears four miles north and a mile west of Yates Center. They had come here with the covered wagon train from Kirksville, Missouri. M. Blanchard gave $500 for this quarter section.

Meanwhile a wagon trail from LeRoy to Pleasant Grove, a log cabin town on the Verdigris River. This trail ran very close to the Blanchard cabin. The mail was also carried between these two towns by stage-coach via this trail, as other trails led to this well traveled trail.

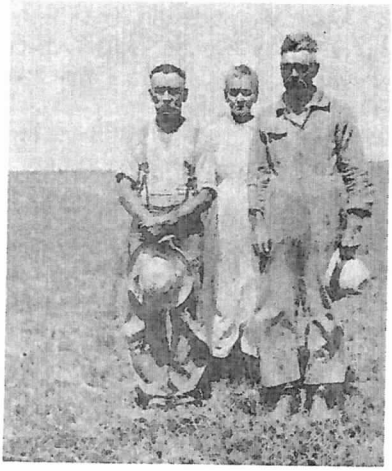
Margaret Blanchard opened up her house as an inn or hotel, furnishing meals and lodging for travelers along this trail. On April 13, 1865, George Blanchard established a post office in their home which he gave the name of Coloma. This was in the same place that Sears Family had the post office of Mt. Airy. It brought the mail much closer to the settlers along the upper Owl Creeks. Coloma and the Blanchard Inn was a very lively place for a couple of years until George Blanchard and mother left here.

Thomas Blanchard and wife Sarah homesteaded the Southwest quarter of section 5-25-15, in 1865. This farm was in later years known

as the county or poor farm. The Blanchard's later sold this farm to Abe. Smith, an early day settler and a one time sheriff of Woodson County. After selling this farm, the Thomas Blanchards bought the farm of his mother, Margaret Blanchard. Perhaps they kept the lodging house for a while. Thomas Blanchard was an early day Justice-of-the-Peace for the North Owl Creek area. In 1867, Thomas Blanchard was elected to both sheriff and treasurer of Woodson County.



The above picture is of "Uncle" Bobby Allen and his sister Elizabeth Ann Cook (Aunt Toddy). In the picture on the following page are the children of Henry A. and Elizabeth Ann Cook. Left to right are Clarence, Ida B., and Robert.



We will take up the family of Henry A. and Elizabeth Ann Cook, who were all born on the Cook homestead not far from North Owl Creek.

Charles Clarence Cook was married to Ada May Young. Their children were: Robert J. who was married to Daisy Smith; William F. who was married to Ollie Bell; Bessie I. who married W. Owen Massey, and Betty D. who died at the age of six years. John (Jack) was married to Minnie Pyle and Thomas, who was married to Martha Bush.

Ida B. was married to Frank McDaniels. Their children were: Elizabeth who married Henry Hilgenburg. They had no children. Phebie, she married Henry Treimer. They had one daughter, Leona May. Clara Belle was married to Glen C. Harding. Their children were: Franklin, Maxine, Donna, Lorraine and Kenneth.

Robert Cook was married to Edna Allen. Their children were: Gertie who married Fred McBee; Margaret, who married James Hall; Henry who married Monty Goodale, and May, who was married to Frank Dassow.

A foster daughter, Josie Kellum was married to Charles Fullington. Their children were Lillian.and Clifford.

* * * * *

There are many more interesting tales about people and events along North Owl Creek. Some of these we will relate later. Especially about Coopers Cave.

The first baseball team we remember called North Owl, was about 1912-15. They had suits of yellow. It seems to us that the shirts were made of silk, with the name on them.

Neosho Falls Post – J.N. Stout, Editor and Propietor
August 29, 1890.

On last Saturday morning, about 2 o'clock, an ice house containing about ten tons of ice was destroyed by fire, the entire building being enveloped in flames before the fire was discovered. The ice was not greatly damaged, the greater portion being saved. There is no clue as to the origin of the fire.

Born–To Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Lynn, August 27th, 1890, a son Otis; Dr. H.G. Slavens attending physician. Mother and child doing well.

WARNING–All persons are hereby given notice to refrain from hitching horses to the fence surrounding the high school building in the city. Board of Education.

The members of the Christian Church, colored, will hold a basket meeting on the Fair Grounds of this place Sunday August 31, 1890. All denominations are urged to attend.

Gem Tonsorial Parlor–A.W. Davenport, Proprietor. Good chairs, sharp razors, clean towels, and everything in keeping with a first class shop. Bathroom connected.

* * * *

Yates Center Grade School

Front row left to right: Anna Gephart, Bessie Davidson Gunnells, Florence McCormick, Louise Wiggans Hughes, Hattie Naylor-Louck, Sadie Normington Kennard (teacher), Pearl Shaefer Depew, Ethel Miller, Jessie Scranton, Rose Bartlett Geary, Elsie Hockett; Second row: Arthur Gruver, Warren Millson, Sam Currie, Will Cannady, Bernard Plummer, Bert Tweedy, Bill Depew, Henry Markman; Third row: Reece Litton, Elsie Tripp, Lela Shurtleff-Crum, Blanche Watson, Alice Howe, Grace Brown Pingrey, Lucy Phillips Schnell, Blanche Camac, Lily Pierce; Fourth row: Hoyt White, Walter (Ben) Stout, Charles Hunt, Rufus Hodgins, Russell Yates, Will Macoubrie, Perrine Dobyns, Horace Alspaugh, Earl Cotter.

The stone building in the back ground was the first school house built in the center of State Street where the Washington School was later built. We do not know just what year this picture was taken. While it was labeled as the Yates Center Grade School some of these pupils were in the high school graduates in 1901. This school was known as the high school.

The grade school at that time was also made of stone and was located in the third blcok on West Rutledge. This building is still there and has been used as a residence for many years. The first school held in District 51 was in this building.

* * * * *

THE BIG SANDY BAND –

Pictured top row left to right: Doc Puckett, Fred Puckett, Royal Rehmer, Warren Puckett, Clyde Rogers, Jock Puckett, Edgar Wilhite; Center row: Rant Puckett, James Gregory, James Adamson, Scott Carmen, Tom Williamson, Warren Swilley; Bottom row: Clifford Puckett, Jay Puckett, Ray Keller, Arthur Darland, Otis Daniel, and Custer Puckett.

This was a good-sized band for a rural community. While it was called the Big Sandy Band there were some from the Little Sandy vicinity. It could almost be called the Puckett Band.

Ray Keller was the leader and director of this group. While they did not get to far from home with their programs they would attend a Fourth of July celebrations in near-by towns. And also would play in some Memorial Day programs.

The picture of the Big Sandy Band was taken around 1915. One of the former band members recently told us that they had a good band, but they could never learn to march very good. However, they were not considered a marching band, and received no renumeration for their playing. Enjoyment for themselves and for others was their main idea.

* * * * *

HISTORY OF VERNON –

In 1885 a railroad was built through Woodson County coming from LeRoy to Yates Center, called the Verdigris Valley, Independence and Western Railroad. This railroad cut across the northeast corner of section 9-24-16, belonging to J.N. Shannon. In 1886 J.N. Shannon sold an interest in a fraction of the northwest corner of this quarter section to Henry Foster. The idea was to find a town along the east side of the railroad where it ran through this tract.

A town was surveyed and platted December 8, 1886, by D.M. Ray, county surveyor, and was given the name of Vernon in honor of Vernon Foster, son of Henry Foster. Not long after that, however, an article appeared in a Yates Center paper stating that, "The Town of Vernon will hereafter be known as Talmadge. This is on account of having another place in the state called Vernon." That place was in Finney County.

The Yates Center News of February 28, 1887, carried this item; "Talmadge, Kansas–We wish to call attention to the little town of the above caption. It is pleasantly situated on the Verdigris Valley, Independence and Western Railroad in a good farming community. About 60 acres are already laid out in city lots, with one of the finest buildings in the county situated near a neat depot and telegraph office. The services of a good blacksmith has been secured. The Everett post office was moved to town last Thursday!"

And in March, 1887 we find these items in the News: "Talmadge, Kansas–W.F. Harper is working on the section at this place.

The Sunday school is enjoying a boom at the present.

Mr. Shannon has had some fine lettering done on the front of his building. Allen Howard did the work!

The town of Talmadge derived its name from Dwight Talmadge a widely known minister at that time.

The name of Vernon, however was soon adapted again as a post office of Talmadge is not recorded in the post offices of Kansas.

The fine building mentioned above was the two-story building built on the south side of Main Street by J.N. Shannon. The lower floor was used as a store having general supplies as would be needed at that time. The upstairs was used as a residence of the Shannons.

When the town was surveyed, blocks 1, 2, 5 and 6 were full blocks with 12 lots each. Blocks 3 and 4 lay diagonally along the railroad and were not full blocks. While the town was founded by Shannon and Foster, we find the name of Foster very little, but the name of Shannon was linked to almost all of the activities of Vernon. Perhaps this would be a good place to tell of the Shannon family, who founded the town of Vernon and added much to the county.

Joseph N. Shannon was born in Wythe County, Virginia, July 7, 1848. His parents were Thomas and Matilda (Brown) Shannon, both natives of Virginia. Thomas Shannon was a merchant and farmer. During the Civil War his farm was in an area that was in the path of the opposing armies of the North and South. Wythe Co. was in the most western point of Virginia, not far from North Carolina, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Mr. Shannon had turned his home into a home for the aged and while the Shannon farm was in the path of the invading Sherman's march, and most everything was looted by the invading troops the house was not burned because of the elderly people living in it. Around the end of the war Thomas Shannon sold his farm and prepared to move west. However he was forced to take his pay in Confederate money, which in a short time became worthless, and the family left almost destitute.

Joseph was about 16 years old when he left Virginia with his parents for Attica, Indiana. Arriving in Indiana the father had just enough money to buy a cow. After about eight years in Indiana the Shannon family decided to come on west to Kansas.

Coming to Kansas with Thomas and Matilda Shannon were their four children: Joseph N., George W., Mary J., Margaret C. They arrived in Neosho Falls in 1873, and made their home at the Falls for awhile. Here Joseph Shannon again took up teaching school. While teaching in Woodson County schools he purchased the east half of section 9-24-16. This was in 1874. Two years later, Joseph N. Shannon went back to Attica, Indiana, where he was married to Miss Sarah M. Claypool, on January 10, 1876. Their children were: Myra E., Arthur C., Thomas W., Nelson C., Mary E. and Harold E.

J.N. Shannon was identified with the teaching and educational interests of the county for five years, then moved to Yates Center, where he went into partnership with A. Van Slike and operated the Van Slike and Shannon Hardware Store on the northwest corner of the square in Yates Center. After five successful years in the hardware business, Shannon sold out and returned to his farm on Cherry Creek. This was in 1885. The following year the town of Vernon was started.

The family of J.N. and Sarah Shannon were as follows: Myra E. who was married to Wm. H. Roberts. Their children were Joseph, Evelyn, Harlan, Arthur, Robert C., Oliver and Wilma (Mrs. Earl Mark).

Arthur C. who was married to Lillie Mae Redfern. Their children were: Leland, Thelma, Sherril, Harold and Marcella.

Thomas Wilson, who married Wamoth White-Later was married to Julia Gleason. He had no children.

Nelson C. was married to Grace Mallory and later to Amelia Monroe. He had a son John Nelson.

Mary E., was married to Hobert M. Thompson. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Jeanne.

Harold E., was married to Mary Gilmore. They had one daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

Back row left to right: Arthur, Myra, Thomas Wilson; Front row: Nelson Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Joseph N., Elizabeth and Harold.

Wm. H. and Myra E. Roberts and family lived in the Vernon vicinity for many years. R.C. Roberts is the only descendent of J.N. Shannon still in the Vernon neighborhood.

Around 19 , T.W. Shannon, better known as Billie, moved back to Vernon, purchased quite an acreage of land, built a new house. Wheat was a good price and prairie hay not so good so many acres of the native grass was plowed by Billie Shannon and seeded to wheat.

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Arthur B. Shannon of Yates Center is grand-nephew of the Joseph Shannon mentioned above.

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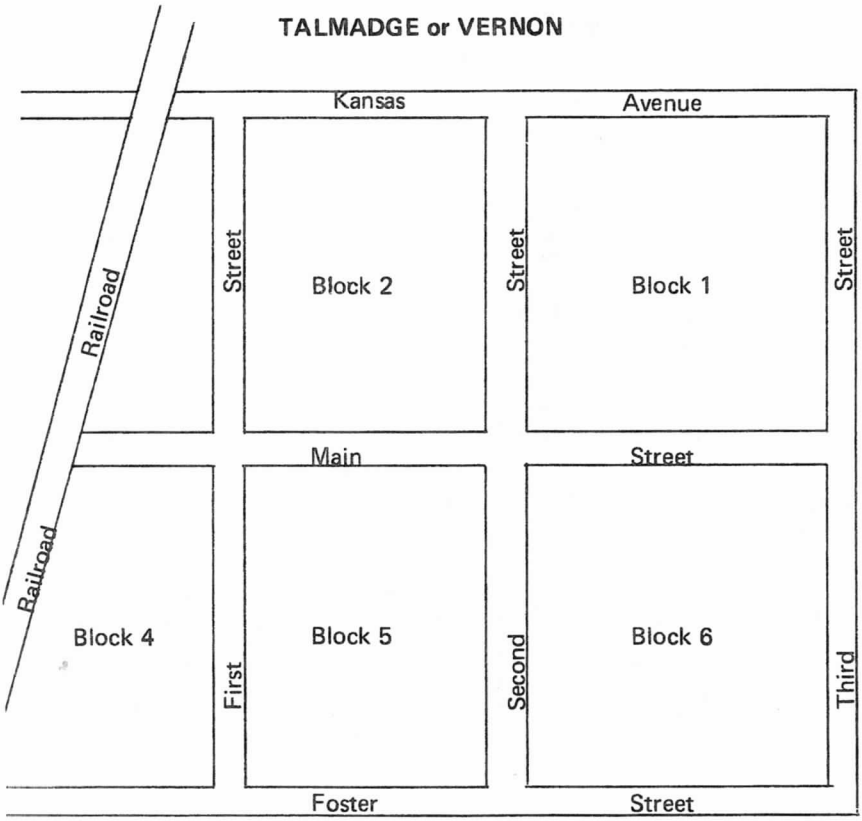
TALMADGE or VERNON



Original townsite of Talmadge (now) Vernon.
Surveyed Dec. 8, 1886, by D.M. Ray, County Surveyor.

While the town was named for the son of Henry Foster and one of the streets named Foster, Henry Foster himself spent a very small amount if any time here. He lived at and was known as a promoter, hence his interest in the town.

At the time of the founding of Vernon the closest post office was Everett at the home of Alexander Hamilton, on Cherry Creek, a half mile west and one and a half south of Vernon. Hamilton was the Everett postmaster from October 26, 1885 till it was transferred to the new on January 31, 1887, and became the post office of Vernon with Hamilton as the first postmaster. The postmasters that followed at Vernon in order were:

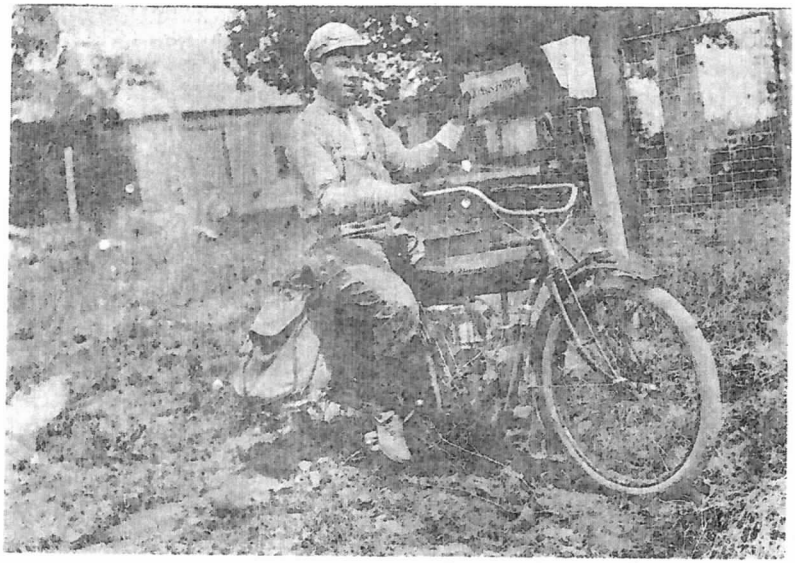
Joseph N. Shannon, August 6, 1887
John O. Hamilton, December 21, 1893
John B. Prutzman, January 4, 1898
Ada E. Jagger, October 10, 1912
Otis A. Lynn, August 12, 1920
Robert C. Roberts, August 28, 1933
Mrs. Mary L. Allen, May 2, 1934
Mrs. Mary E. Peterson, August 1, 1935
Mrs. Susie C. Tannahill, January 28, 1936
Mrs. Mary L. Weide, June 15, 1950

Mrs. Weide was postmistress until this office was discontinued and the mail went to Yates Center, August 15, 1953.

The Vernon post office moved around to several houses and locations during its lifetime in the little village. The dates after the postmasters names are the beginning of their terms. In 1903 the first rural free delivery was established out of Vernon with George Ayres as the carrier. Ayers was followed by Frank Hanan and then Claude Frost.

Otis Lynn, started carrying the rural route out of Vernon August 1912, going by horseback, two wheeled cart and then by motorcycle. He carried the mail until May of 1920 when Walter became the rural carrier out of Vernon. At this time the rural route extended to the northwest to the Duck Creek vicinity. The route at that time was 29+ miles long and had over 100 boxes.

Walter Merrill, a young veteran of World War 1 took over this route in June, 1920 and carried it until it was discontinued in December, 1933, and made a part of RFD No. 2 out of Yates Center. Route 2 out of Yates Center had been carried by Frank VanWye for many years and who was retiring at that time.



This is a picture of Otis Lynn as he carried the mail. He had just stopped at the Frank Guy home. The picture was taken by George Guy. Note the large mail bags on rear of the Indian Motorcycle. Otis was putting the Kansas Farmer magazine in the mailbox. The Kansas Farmer Magazine carried this picture and a story with it at the time as George Guy sent it to the Magazine in Topeka.

To Be Continued

A NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING –

The following picture is of a group of neighbors and friends of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Louderbaugh at their home in the Duck Creek vicinity of Liberty township, about 2½ miles north of Burt on the east side of the road or 10 miles north and two west of Yates Center. The occasion was a farewell for the Louderbacks who were leaving the community.

All day gatherings like this were very popular in the horse and buggy days. Parents would load the children in buggys, wagons and spring-wagons and with well-filled food baskets for the noon meal would gather at the home of a neighbor for a day of visiting and playing.

The horses used in the transportation at these occasions would make up a good-sized herd as they would be tied to wagons, trees and hitching racks. These are referred to as "the good old days." No automobiles or modern conveniences, but the people enjoyed themselves just as well or more so than in modern times.

People in the above picture are back row left to right: Mrs. Belle Harding, holding her youngest son, Lester, Mrs. Newt Lauderback, Mrs. Wm. Stockebrand, John R. Bales, Asa Whitney (with white beard), Jim Lauderbauck, Frank Guy, John Pea, Wm. Stockebrand, Jim McCullough, Newt Lauderback (by tree), Center row: Lizzie Lake, Mrs. (Grandma) Mozingo, Clara Magrew, Mrs. Frank Guy, Mrs. John Pea, Josie Guy (Shepard), Keith Kinyon, John Stockebrand, Mrs. John Mozingo, Earl Guy, Walter Stockebrand, Clarence Kinyon, Mrs. Will (Mary) Kinyon, Mrs. Clarence (Daisy) Kinyon, Mrs. Forrest (India) Randall, W.P. Kinyon. Front row: Mrs. O (Grandma) Randall, Mrs. W.P. Kinyon, Mrs. Asa Whitney, Glenn Guy, Alfred Stockebrand, L.D. Lauderback, Sybil Kinyon, Mrs. L.D. Lauderbauck, Vesta Kinyon, Mae Harding (Weide).

CATTLE DRIVE TO BATES COUNTY, MISSOURI - 1898 –

What was perhaps one of the largest, if not the largest cattle drive out of Woodson County, that originated in the northwest part of the county somewhere around the head of Dry Creek west of the little town of Keck, now where the Kimbell Ranch headquarters are.

During the latter 1880's and 1890's many of the cattle that was grazed in this area through the pasture season came from over in western Missouri. In September of 1898, Jim Dye and the Kisner Brothers, Bill and Frank, threw their herds together to drive them to Bates Co., Missouri. Nine men were to come from Missouri to help with the drive, but when they did not show up after the cattle had been rounded up for the drive, Dye and the Kisner's decided to start

anyway. A group of riders from the northwest part of the county were hired to make the drive. This group of riders consisted of Jim Dye, Bill Kistner, Denny Corkery, Henry Corkery, a Pickering boy, Frank Dye, Willis Frank, a brother-in-law of the Dye's, Otis Sage as foreman, and Billy Wright as cook and wagon man.

On the first day of the trail drive they met the men from Missouri. It was decided that the drivers would all make the drive together. This made 18 riders for the 1800 head of cattle. The first night out they camped near Vernon. The men all slept on the ground. A corral made of lariat ropes tied together kept the horses close to camp.

The second night camp was near Geneva, just east of Neosho Falls. Here a hay meadow was used as a camp site, and they were to move out early the next morning. The next morning happened to be Sunday and the men were in no hurry to get started. Otis Sage, Jim Dye and Billy Wright were sitting in the grass by the wagon when the owner of the land drove up, "mad as a hornet" as Sage told it. Sage got up to meet the land owner, Jim Dye lay flat in the grass as Billy Wright got the wagon between them. Dye climbed into the wagon and into the bed until they got the herd started on the road. The land owner never knew that Jim Dye was in the wagon. Before the drive had gone very far another man came riding up and said that he had a bunch of their cattle at his farm and demanded damages. Otis Sage paid the damages and the herd again got under way.

The third night's camp was north of Colony and the fourth night's camp was just east of Lone Elm. The next night they camped three miles southwest of Blue Mound where they rested the cattle for a day with a man by the name of Silkill. Then on to Fulton, Missouri, and then to near Hume, Missouri. West of Hume the herd began to split up. The cutting of the herd was here, some of the cattle south and east and some up by Rich Hill, Missouri. This trail drive took seven days from the northwest part of Woodson County to near Hume, Missouri. What a sight this must have been, and what a dusty, dirty drive as 1800 head of cattle, eighteen horses and riders and possibly a remuda of extra horses made their way down the country roads. The chuck wagon would evidently be in the lead as the cook would go ahead to prepare for the noon and nights camp. During the 1890's there were herds of cattle driven over this route almost every spring and fall.

As we write about this drive and the cook Billy Wright, in the chuck wagon, it makes us wonder if he had his violin along. We believe that there could be no doubt that he did as it always seemed as though Billy Wright and his fiddle were almost inseparable.

A street scene on Main Street in Toronto, Kansas sometime in the 1880's. We never learned what the occasion was for so many horses, wagons, buggies and surreys to congregate in this area along the street.

It would be interesting to know just who the two little boys in the front of the picture are. To the extreme left the wagon contains several kitchen chairs that were used as seats. The scene is looking to the west.

* * * * *

TORONTO TOPIC - October 1, 1886 — The city authorities are placing large flagging stones at the crossings, which are nice and much needed. The flagging is furnished by Mr. Albert Webb from his quarries adjoining the city.

LILY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 52 —

The Lily Schoolhouse as most of our readers might remember it was located on the southeast corner of section 36-24-16, on land belonging to the Moerer family. However, the first school held in that vicinity was in a log cabin a half mile west and a half mile south of the location mentioned. This log building was on land at that time belonged to Frederick Frevert, as a part of his homestead. It was on the east side of the road where there is a grove of trees.

The first school board members of that school were Frederick Frevert, director; James J. Davis, clerk, and John D. Smidt, treasurer. Some of the first teachers of this school were Laura Smith, Nellie

Stewart, Eva Jones, J.W.G. McCormick, Ada Smith, Laura Ward, Pat Crahan, Thomas J. Bell and Maggie Crahan. During this period of years a new frame schoolhouse was built on the location on the Moerer farm. More teachers at Dist. 52, were John Barrett, Annis Wilkinson, Belle Withers, Allie Trout. Then in 1900-01 two terms were taught by Wm. J. O'Donnell. Other teachers were Myrtle Dysert-Robbins, Lottie Muender, Hattie Howard, Lena Denner-Wille, Mary McCormick, Lizzie Maclaskey taught here in 1915. During that term the schoolhouse burned.

A new building was started at once. Lizzie Maclaskey was the first teacher in the new building. Teachers on down through the years in the new building were: Gettie Smith, Clara Keske, Hester Davidson, Edna Ritterhouse, Helen Ling, T.J. Richards, May Henson, Ruth Krueger, Edith Dawson, Lenore Haen, Cleo Theobald, Melba Frevert, Emma Mae Weide, Elsie Brown, Opal Wagner, Betty Anne Drain, Delyte Sowers (eleven terms). Geraldine Tipton Carlstrom was the last teacher to teach District 52 before it was discontinued and the building sold. This was in 1961.

The version of how the school got the name of Lily was – when the first frame school was built and painted white by Jacob Haen in 1882, he looked at it from a distance and remarked that there on the bare green prairie it looked in all its whiteness just like a lily, and the name stuck.

The first school in the log building was organized in May, 1877. Many pupils attended and received most of their education down through the 84 years it stood there.

The address of one of the early teachers – J.W.G. McCormick was given as Hamburg. Hamburg was a post office on the county line about five miles south of Piqua.

We are indebted for most of the above history of the Lily School to Mrs. Clairie Giltner Erker, who was kind enough to loan her scrap-book of some of her writings.

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Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society
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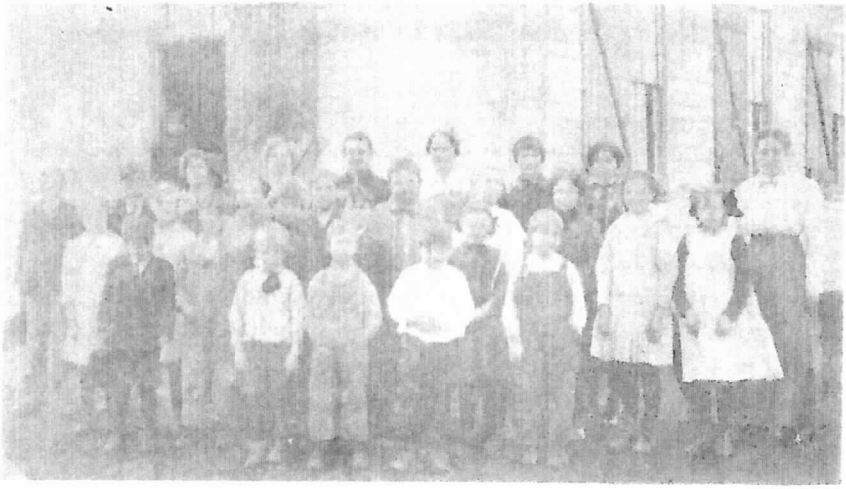

A picture of the Lily School during the term of 1913-14, about a year before it burned to the ground. The teacher in the picture was Mary McCormick. Pupils in the picture left to right in the back row: Joe McConnell, George Moerer, Angela Mische, Marie Massoth, Archie Derby, Dena Starkebaum, Dorothy McConnell, Viola Breon; Second row: Julia Mische, Valerie McConnell, Opal Moerer, Albert Mische, Gilbert Starkebaum, Claire Massoth, Olive Breon, Alma Gibson, Margaret Woodcock; next row: Carl Gibson, Lawrence Moerer, Joe Massoth, Hollis Gibson, Josey Derby, Lawrence Mische; front row: Herbert Woodcock, John Massoth, Earl Breon.

* * * *

During the term of 1955-56, there were the following pupils enrolled at the Lily School, with Mrs. Delyte Sowers as the teacher. Erving Bales, Bonita Bales, Sherita Bales, Francis Link, Ronald Link, Darlene Bishop, Kenneth Terrell, Evelyn Terrell, Kathy Martin and Phyliss Sowers.

* * * *

In 1961, as plans were being made to sell this schoolhouse as it had been disorganized, a homecoming and farewell was held at the schoolhouse, with a basket dinner at noon. A program with many memories being brought to mind was held afternoon. Several former teachers and pupils of years past were present. There were 82 present for the farewell for the old district No. 52.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
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Self Service Grocery
Kruegers Variety
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